

Montgomery County
Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Disability Services
Community Support Network
401 Hungerford Drive
Second Floor

Community Support Network News

Community Support Network is Moving!



Summer 2005

Over the past 5 years, the Community Support Network (CSN) has grown from a staff of 6 to a staff of 21. The growth of all the programs within CSN has left us to relocate after 7 years at 401 Hungerford Drive in Rockville.

Our new office space will be located at 11 N. Washington Street, Suite 450, Rockville, MD 20850. CSN staff phone numbers will remain the same along with the CSN's main phone line: 240-777-1216. The TTY number 240-777-1217 and fax number 240-777-4625 will also remain the same.



Community Support Network Website

The Community Support Network's website has also moved. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhstmpl.asp?url=/content/hhs/ads/disability/DevDisabil.asp to obtain information on services for individuals with developmental disabilities in Montgomery County. The website also provides links to the Community Support Network Newsletter (this edition and previous ones) and to the Free Educational Seminars Brochure.

Become a Subscriber!

The Community Support Network has a mailing list of individuals, families, organizations, and schools for various mailings. To receive our mailings, please call 240-777-1216 to leave your name and mailing address information. We will be happy to add you or your organization to our list.

If you are a regular recipient of the newsletter or other CSN mailings and are moving in the near future, please call 240-777-1216 so that we can change your address in our database.

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Helping to Make Your Community Links



JULY 2005							AUGUST 2005							SEPTEMBER 2005						
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Calendar of Events

July



1 Canada Day

Discover the street cars of Toronto and Montreal. National Capital Trolley Museum, Silver Spring, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., H*, 301-384-6088, www.dctrolley.org.

1- 8/7 James and the Giant Peach

A show for family audiences featuring top Washington professional actors in the beautiful Learner Family Theatre. Imagination Stage, Bethesda, Saturday at 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday at 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday at 10:30 a.m., \$, H, 301-280-1660, www.ImaginationStage.org.

4 Rockville Independence Day Celebration

Enjoy a fun and festive evening to celebrate our country's birthday. Live music starts the festivities and an extravagant display of fireworks will conclude the evening. Join thousands of your neighbors to celebrate our national patriotism. Richard Montgomery High School, Rockville, 6:30-10 p.m., H, 240-314-8620, www.rockvillemd.gov.

4 July 4th Celebration

Fireworks display, preceded by live music for adults and children. Downtown Wheaton, 6:30-10:30 p.m., H, 240-777-8106, www.montgomerycountymd.gov/wheaton.

7, 14, 21, 28 Bethesda Summer Concert Series

The FREE Bethesda Summer Concerts, featuring a diverse range of music. Concerts are held Thursday evenings in Veterans Park. Veterans Park, corner of Norfolk and Woodmont Park, Bethesda, 6-8 p.m., H, 301-215-2660, www.bethesda.org.

7, 14, 21, 28 Summer Serenades Summer Concert Series

Free outdoor classical concerts. Gudelsky Gazebo Concert Pavilion at Strathmore, North Bethesda, 7:30 p.m., H, 301-581-5100, www.strathmore.org.

7, 14, 21, 28 Backyard Theater at Strathmore

Performances for children. Mansion at Strathmore, North Bethesda, 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., \$, H, 301-581-5100, www.strathmore.org.

\$ fee/admission H handicap accessible H* limited handicap access TBA to be announced

August

12-20 Montgomery County Fair

Montgomery County's largest annual event. Fun for all: entertainment, rides, games and exhibits. Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Gaithersburg, August 12, 3 p.m.-12 midnight; August 13-20, 8 a.m.-12 midnight, \$, H, 301-926-3100, www.mcagfair.com.

27-28 August Cup

Seneca Soccer and Damascus Soccer Club host a soccer tournament for local and regional soccer teams. Maryland SoccerPlex, Germantown, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., H, 301-528-1480, www.mdsoccerplex.org.



September

3, 4, 5 Labor Day Art Show

The 34th Annual Labor Day Art Show at Glen Echo Park. This free event will take place in the Park's Spanish Ballroom. The historic Dentzel Carousel will be operating throughout the show. Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo, 12 noon-6 p.m., H, 301-634-2222, www.glenechopark.org.

5 Labor Day Parade

Celebrate the end of the summer with this longstanding tradition of marching bands, floats, giant balloons, horses, dance groups and much, much more. East Diamond and Russell Avenues in Old Towne Gaithersburg, 1 p.m., H, 301-258-6350, www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

10-11 & 17-18 Shaker Forest Festival 2005

A fine arts & crafts festival offering handcrafted, traditional and contemporary crafts where crafts people dress in 18th Century and Shaker-period attire, while demonstrating the skills of their crafts. Seneca Creek State Park, Gaithersburg, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily; 18th closing at 5:30 p.m., \$, H, 301-972-6354, www.shakerforest.org.

11 Happy Birthday Montgomery County!

Celebrate Montgomery County's history and heritage with activities, exhibits, talks and more for all ages... and birthday cake too! Beall-Dawson Historical Park, Rockville, 1-5 p.m., H, 301-340-2825, www.montgomeryhistory.org.

18 24th Olde Towne Gaithersburg Day

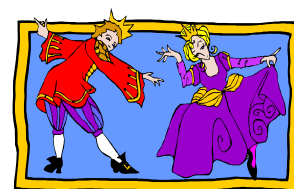
Street Festival with entertainment, food, arts and crafts, vendors, children's activities and more! Diamond and Summit Avenues, Gaithersburg, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., H, 301-258-6310, www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

24 Rockville Arts and Music Festival

The Rockville Arts & Music Festival features multiple stages of music, dance and children's entertainment. Highlights include the Hard Times Chili Cook-Off, The Rockville Volunteer Fire Department's "Safety in the Square" and an art show produced by Rockville Arts Place. Rockville Town Center, Rockville, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., H, 240-314-8620, www.rockvillemd.gov.

24-11/6 Cinderella

A show for family audiences featuring top Washington professional actors in the beautiful Lerner Family Theatre. Imagination Stage, Bethesda, Saturday at 3:30 and 7 p.m.; Sunday at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m.; field trip matinees Tuesday-Friday at 10:30 a.m., \$, H, 301-280-1660, www.ImaginationStage.com.





Legislative News



The following information is the Maryland Department of Disabilities legislative wrap up of some bills pertaining to people with disabilities that passed or failed in the 2005 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SB 630 Vehicle Laws—Registration and Parking for Individuals with Disabilities

Synopsis: Altering certain eligibility criteria for special disability registration and parking placards; altering the number of special registration plates and placards that may be issued; repealing a requirement that an individual recertify a disability; requiring parking lots and signs to come into compliance with specified laws by specified dates; providing that specified parking lot changes are considered to be an alteration for the purposes of the Maryland Accessibility Code; providing for a delayed effective date; etc.

Status as of 4/7—passed with amendments

HB 579/ SB 834 Pilot Program to Study and Improve Screening Practices for Autism Spectrum Disorders

Synopsis: Establishing a Pilot Program to Study and Improve Screening Practices for Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Department of Education; requiring the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to select and establish relationships with specified providers to participate in the Pilot Program, assess and identify autism spectrum disorders screening instruments, and develop training materials and distribute written information on early detection of autism spectrum disorders; etc.

Status as of 4/5—passed with amendments

HB 794/SB 714 Developmental Disability—Written Plan of Habilitation—State Residential Centers

Synopsis: Requiring specified individuals to develop a written plan of habilitation for individuals in State residential centers; requiring the Developmental Disabilities Administration to develop a specified protocol and format for the written plan of habilitation to be used by each State residential center; requiring treating professionals and resource coordinators to discuss service needs with individuals in a State residential center on an annual basis and on request of the individual; etc.

Status as of 4/4—passed

HB 988/ SB 776 Individual with Developmental Disabilities - Additional Rights and Services

Synopsis: Adding the right to be informed of specified service options to the list of basic rights to which an individual who receives services provided by the Developmental Disabilities Administration is entitled; requiring the staff of an Administration licensee, at a specified time, to assess whether the needs of an individual with a developmental disability could be met in more integrated settings and to provide specified service options to the individual in a specified manner; and making technical and conforming changes.

Status as of 4/4—passed

(Continued)

HB 651/SB 702—Developmental Disabilities Administration—Prioritization System for Investigations

Synopsis: Requiring the Developmental Disabilities Administration, in conjunction with the Office of health Care Quality, to adopt regulations establishing a prioritization system for responding to and investigating specified incidents; and requiring the Administration to seek input from specified individuals in developing the regulations.

Status as of 4/4—passed

HB 1199—Developmental Disabilities Administration—Waiting List Equity Fund—Appropriation

Synopsis: Requiring the appropriation of specified funds from the Cigarette Restitution Fund to the Waiting List Equity Fund; and providing that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene may transfer a specified percentage of the funds in the Waiting List Equity Fund allocated from the Cigarette Restitution Fund to rural, underserved areas of the State to provide specified community-based services.

Status as of 2/24—failed

Disability Funding for FY 2006



In their Monthly Update for March 2005, the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) reported that Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., has set high expectations for programs servicing people with disabilities and his budget includes numerous proposals for FY 2006 that reflect these standards. The highlights of Governor Ehrlich's budget include:

Eradication of Childhood Lead Poisoning—\$1 million

Governor Ehrlich's legislation amends Maryland's lead law with the goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning in the state by 2010. Children are at greatest risk from birth to age six while their neurological systems are developing. The major source of exposure for children is paint dust from deteriorated lead paint or from home renovation. The most effective prevention of childhood lead poisoning is to reduce or eliminate exposure. The current program administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment, would be strengthened through this funding.

Technology and Accessible Communities—\$75,000

The budget included funds for MDOD to enhance the Maryland Technology Assistance Program. These funds will be used to match federal grants to improve the department's ability to provide low interest loans for people with disabilities to purchase technology, and to expand the program to create a Telework and Self-Employment Loan Program. The program will provide loans for equipment needed by individuals with disabilities to telework or start their own businesses. This effort will boost employment for people with disabilities, especially those who find it difficult to work outside the home.

Maryland's Department of Disabilities Website

For more information on legislative information and the State of Maryland's Department of Disabilities (MDOD) go to: www.mdod.org/oid



Reminder about the Montgomery County Prescription Plan

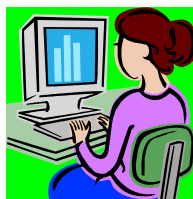


Back in September 2004, Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan announced a new discount prescription drug card plan to help Montgomery County residents save money on prescription medications. AdvancePCS, a division of Caremark Rx, of Nashville, Tennessee, distributed free discount drug cards to every Montgomery County household, through an agreement with the National Association of Counties (NACo). County residents are able to use their “Montgomery Rx” card at participating pharmacies and save an average of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed medications.

With the Montgomery RX card, County residents can visit more than 103 participating pharmacies in Montgomery County, including both chain stores and independently owned pharmacies. There is no enrollment fee for the card and it can be used by any resident, regardless of age, income level or existing health coverage. The card is not insurance, but provides a discount off the retail price of prescription medications. Higher discounts will be available on select medications, as well as high-tech and injectable drugs.

Unlike the drug discount cards being offered by Medicare, the Montgomery Rx card is available to residents of all ages and is easy to use. The card is simply presented at participating pharmacies and the discount is given at the time of purchase. Individuals with insurance coverage for prescription drugs may still save money on drugs the insurance plan doesn't cover.

The Montgomery Rx prescription discount cards were mailed out to over 200,000 households in December 2004. If you are a County resident and have not received a card, the free discount cards can be found at all County libraries, regional service centers, County health and human services locations and at participating pharmacies throughout Montgomery County.



New Health Information Resource from Tufts University for Asian-Language Speakers

Tufts University's Health Sciences Library has created an unprecedented health resource for Asian Americans whose first language is not English. Dubbed SPIRAL for “Selected Patient Information Resources in Asian Languages,” it is a web site (<http://spiral.tufts.edu>), with detailed health information in seven Asian languages, specifically Chinese, Hmong, Khmer, Korean, Laotian, Thai and Vietnamese. It is a unique multi-language health information site because it is for both physicians and patients.

Segmented by language and by subject, a user - either a patient, doctor or other caregiver—can search for documents in an Asian language on topics such as asthma, diabetes, nutrition, substance abuse, SARS and HIV/AIDS. A native speaker of an Asian language would go to the main web site, select his/her language, and then search for the information that was needed. Material is also provided in English so that an English-speaking physician or caregiver can see what patients are reading.

For more information, visit <http://spiral.tufts.edu>.



Maryland Task Force Members Present Child Care Recommendations at National Conference



Recommendations developed by Maryland's Task Force on Inclusive Child and After-School Care were presented at the annual policy symposium of a national child care association in March. The 17th Annual Policy Symposium of the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies was held March 1-5 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. The NACCRRRA is a national network of resource and referral centers helping families, child care providers and communities find, provide and plan for affordable, quality child care.

Representatives of Maryland's Child Care Administration and Department of Disabilities, in partnership with the Abilities Network,; Arc of Maryland,; Developmental Disabilities Council and Maryland State Child Care Association, presented the recommendations, which include educating providers about resources available to accommodate children with special needs; linking providers with the Maryland Assistive Technology Co-op to purchase low-cost assistive technology; and coordinating with summer camp providers to increase camp opportunities for children with disabilities. A final report on recommendations will be presented to the Maryland General Assembly by July 1, 2005.

For more information about the recommendations, contact Lynell Otto, Director of Children's Policy, Maryland Dept. of Disabilities, at 410-767-3649 or lotto@mdod.state.md.us or Patricia A. Jennings, Deputy Executive Director, Maryland Child Care Administration, at 410-767-7798.

-from Maryland Department of Disabilities Monthly Update—March 2005



DDA Receives Federal Approval for *New Directions* A Consumer-Directed Services Waiver

New Directions will begin on July 1, 2005 and allow up to 100 people (during its first year) to direct their own services. The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is pleased to announce that this new waiver will support individuals who want more control over the services they receive and who are interested in taking more of a management role in those services.

New Directions is for people living in their own homes or with their families. It will be available to people in all parts of the State. Everyone in *New Directions* will have an Individual Budget. With assistance from a Fiscal Management Service (FMS) and a person called a Support Broker, the individual will manage their budget, hire and supervise their own staff and make decisions about how their services are provided. The FMS will pay bills, take care of tax paperwork, and provide monthly budget statements. The Support Broker will be someone the person trusts to help them navigate the system, help them with staff and act as an advocate. A person in *New Directions* can get a whole array of services, including support services, supported employment and others.

For information about this exciting new Maryland waiver contact Susan Harrison at 301-362-5100.

-from MDDC Council Connection Winter 2004

HOMES Project: “Helping Obtain Medicaid Essential Services”

The MD Disability Law Center received \$75,000 per year from the Weinberg Foundation for a two-year legal advocacy project designed to help keep low-income children with developmental disabilities and behavioral problems or other challenging health care needs at home with their families rather than being placed unnecessarily in institutional or out-of-home placements.

Under this grant MDLC will provide community outreach and education, legislative and public policy advocacy, individual client representation, and training and technical assistance for pro bono attorneys who will also provide legal representation to these children. They have hired a full-time attorney, Nicole Joseph, who will work on this project with managing attorney Cathy Surace. Staff at MDLC can be reached at 410-727-6352 for further information about the “HOMES” project.

-from MDDC Council Connection Winter 2004

Helpful Websites

[Www.tutorsteach.com](http://www.tutorsteach.com)—a website dedicated to helping people find a tutor or for people who want to be become a tutor.

4women.gov—**National Women's Health Information Center**. This web site and toll-free call center (1-800-994-WOMAN (9662) or TDD 1-888-220-5446) were created to provide FREE, reliable health information for women everywhere.

MakingContact.org—Making Contact.org is designed to be a place where families of disabled children or adults, their friends or disabled adults themselves can find and contact others affected by similar disabilities or other disabled people from the same area.

The Treatment and Learning Center’s *Outcomes* program has moved!

Due to the expansion of the Katherine Thomas School, the Treatment and Learning Center has relocated it’s *Outcomes* program. The new address is:

Outcomes
2301 Research Blvd.
Suite 220
Rockville, MD 20850

The phone number remains the same: 301-294-9205.

Golden Access Passports: Free for People with Disabilities

The Golden Access Passport is a lifetime pass allowing free entrance to all government national parks, national wildlife refugees, U.S. Forest Service sites, and Bureau of Land Management. The pass also offers a 50% discount on Federal Recreation use fees. There is no charge to obtain the passport, however proof of disability is required. For more information call the National Park Service at 202-619-7222. The passports can be obtained directly from the National Capital Region Headquarters of the National Park Service in the Finance Department. The hours are 7:30 am—3:00 pm and the phone number is 202-619-7289.

Walk F.A.R. for NAAR!

On Saturday, May 7, 2005, family and friends came together at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds to Walk F.A.R. for NAAR. The Walk is an annual event sponsored by the National Alliance for Autism Research and is its signature fundraising event. Team Kids' Care, comprised of Amy Gold, Sarah Orlans, Karen Gipson, Deion Gipson, Kirsten Gipson, Anita Ghosh, Debbie Guha, Laurie Koontz, Savannah Koontz, Lori Smith, Shawn Smith, Joanne Miller, Leslie Schwee, Steve Schwee, Carli Schwee, Riley Schwee, Jamell White, and Sheila Ray, raised over \$650 for this year's Walk.

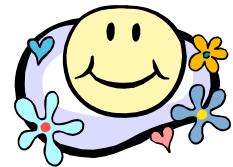


-Photo by Team Photographer Brad Gold

Special appearances were made by Maryland Terrapins basketball coach Gary Williams, the Ivymount Alligator, Clifford the Dog, Winnie the Pooh, and Curious George. There were several activities for children including the moon bounce, arts & crafts, and face painting. A good time was had by all!



98 Ways to Praise Children



That's incredible! How extraordinary! Far out! Outstanding performance.
I can't get over it! Great! Amazing effort! Unbelievable work.
Wonderful! Marvelous! Phenomenal. You've got it! Superb. Cool!
Excellent! You're special. Your work is out of sight! Your project is first rate.
You've outdone yourself. Way to go! Thumbs up! You're a good friend.
You came through! Terrific! You tried hard! Your help counts!
You made it happen. It couldn't be better. Fantastic work. You're a real trooper.
Fabulous! Bravo! Exceptional You're unique.
Awesome! Breathtaking. The time you put in really shows.
You're a good example for others. Keep up the good work. I knew you had it in you.
Right on! Good work! It's everything I hoped for. You should be proud of yourself.
What an imagination! You made the difference. Well done. You're sensational. Very good.
A+ work. Super job. Good for you! Take a bow. You figured it out. Great answer.
You're doing a lot better. Thanks for being honest. How artistic. Hooray for you!
You're a joy. How thoughtful of you. You're amazing! You're getting there.
What a great idea! You deserve a hug. Thanks for trying. You're a big help.
You're tops. You've made progress. You're neat! You've got what it takes. You're #1.
You're a shining star. You can be trusted. Wow! Remarkable. Beautiful. I'm proud of you.
Very impressive. You're sharp. You're a winner! Hot dog! Spectacular work.
You're so kind. You've really grown up. What a great listener. Thanks for helping.
Great discovery! You're A-OK. You're a great kid! How original! You're a champ.
You're a pleasure to know. Very brave. What a genius. You're very talented.
You're the greatest. You're super!

-from "Smart Parenting", distributed by Montgomery County Child Welfare Services